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The Compassionate Cosmopolitan

National Humanities Medal award-winner Kwame Anthony Appiah suggests a way to achieve peace



“When literal conversation isn’t possible, there are other ways of gaining access to the thoughts of other people.”

—Kwame Anthony Appiah



The DePaul community turned out in force to learn more about global citizenship.

Strip the word of its modern associations, and the literal meaning of a “cosmopolitan” is a citizen of the world. “We can’t converse with all the other 7 billion strangers on the planet. But a global community of cosmopolitans would want to learn about other ways of life,” said Kwame Anthony Appiah at his March 29 presentation “Education for Global Citizenship and The Crisis Facing Black America.” Appiah, a National Humanities Medal award-winner, was invited to speak at DePaul by the College of Education’s Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies at its annual Ikeda lecture.

The world-renowned professor, author, philosopher, cultural theorist and scholar explained to a full and diverse audience that cosmopolitanism is a key to a world where people respect each other. To achieve such harmony, Appiah encouraged study abroad for students of all ages, as well as simply getting to know people who are different. “When literal conversation isn’t possible, there are other ways of gaining access to the thoughts of other people,” he said, including reading novels and newspapers, listening to the radio, watching movies and television, and accessing information on the internet.

Appiah linked his own ideals to those of Daisaku Ikeda, a Buddhist philosopher, author and educator who founded the Soka education philosophy. Appiah recalled a lecture Ikeda gave in 1996 at Columbia University in New York during which he emphasized the importance of preparing students to be global citizens who have “the wisdom to perceive the interconnectedness of all life and living; the courage not to fear or deny difference, but to respect and try to understand people of different cultures; and compassion to maintain an imaginative empathy that reaches beyond one’s immediate surroundings and extends to those suffering in different places.”

Appiah discussed the turmoil facing the black community, including high rates of incarceration and police killings of unarmed black citizens. He pointed out that in 2015 alone, 75 unarmed black Americans were killed by police officers, an event that is five times more likely to occur in black communities than in predominantly white communities.

“Why did we get to this terrible place?” he asked. “Surely part of the answer is that too few American voters and politicians have had the necessary conversations with the people in the neighborhoods devastated in this process. The same, of course, is true for the inequities in policing that have riven your city and others these last years.”

Nonetheless, Appiah is optimistic that this course can be reversed through intercultural understanding and that college is a great place to start the process. “Students are often brought together through sports and debating and so on, where they’re just doing things together—not in order to achieve something else, but just to do that thing together. And if you do that thing together with people enough, it’s just very hard to hate them.”



Professor Ilya Kaler plays a Tchaikovsky waltz-scherzo in front of the newly unveiled St. Cecilia window.

Beautiful Sounds

School of Music supporters celebrate as new facilities take shape

“We’ve been waiting such a long time!” exclaimed Interim Dean Judy Bundra at the May 10 Encore event that celebrated the ongoing legacy of DePaul’s School of Music. Attendees chuckled at this quote from “Saturday in the Park,” a hit song from Chicago, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band started by DePaul music students back in 1967. Students, faculty, staff and patrons have indeed been waiting a very long time for the world-class facilities that will rise on the Lincoln Park campus in spring 2018—in fact, they’ve waited more than a century, since the conservatory’s founding in 1912.

The facilities’ earliest supporters and continuing champions enjoyed the musical stylings of performance and jazz studies faculty members who performed encore pieces ranging from a Rossini aria to a jazz composition by Booker Little. Board of Trustees member Sasha Gerritson (MUS ’99),

Interim Chair of Musical Studies Alan Salzenstein and the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul, all expressed what the school’s new home means to students, faculty, staff and the DePaul community. “Music is transformational,” said Gerritson. “Music can make you happy. Music can make you sad. Music reflects the mirror you’re looking in. Music changes lives, just as DePaul changed mine and the lives of countless others.”

Fr. Holtschneider blessed a breathtaking stained-glass window of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians, which will be installed in the new facilities. “Whatever the faiths of our faculty and students, all of us feel and know the Transcendent through music. St. Cecilia will stand witness to that transcendent quality of music and successive generations of musicians will continue their long association with a saint who is considered theirs alone,” he said.

Humanity Examined

Indie band Typhoon wrestles with life’s fragility

In February, the DePaul Humanities Center welcomed Kyle Morton, founder, lead vocalist and guitarist for the Portland, Ore., band Typhoon, for the ongoing series “In Conversation with Great Minds.”

“Morton’s singular talent as an existential poet, and the genuine empathy he exudes in his intellect and his art, made him someone I have always wanted to celebrate in this programming series—the best of what the humanities and the arts can offer us,” explains Professor of Philosophy H. Peter Steeves, the center’s director.

Morton was joined onstage by violinist Shannon Rose Steele and guitarist David Hall, two members of the eclectic 11-person band. Together they delivered Typhoon’s signature dreamy, dark music, mesmerizing a crowd of 150 with haunting lyrics evocative of death and dying.

Lines such as “I’ve been the patient for a long time now / And I will never be a younger man now” alluded to Morton’s struggles with Lyme disease, but Steeves suggested that the band’s appeal derives partly from its ability to transcend personal experience. “Typhoon’s songs are deeply personal, yet resonate with universal concern, sadness, joy and longing,” he said.

Steeves and Morton explored these ideas further in a conversation following the performance. “I think everyone has personal crises from time to time,” Morton said, noting that music is how he makes sense of the world, while others, he added wryly, teach philosophy.



Kyle Morton of Typhoon



Déjà Vu All Over Again

Women's basketball returns to the NCAA tournament

For the second time in the last three years and the fourth time in program history, the DePaul women's basketball team earned a spot in the NCAA tournament regional semifinals. DePaul won 16 of 18 games in conference play. The team finally fell to No. 6-ranked Oregon State 83-71 during NCAA play. Oregon State went on to qualify for the NCAA Women's Final Four.

DePaul (27-9) opened the NCAA tournament with a 97-67 victory over James Madison as Jessica January scored 18 points and Jacqui Grant tallied 15 points and nine rebounds. Qualifying for the Sweet 16 meant prevailing over No. 8 Louisville on its home court, and DePaul came through with a 73-72 win behind January's season-high 25 points.

This was the 14th consecutive NCAA tournament appearance, capping a memorable season that saw the Blue Demons topple four teams ranked in the nation's Top 25. They defeated No. 12 Northwestern 88-75 behind Megan Podkowa's career-high 27 points, along with 14 rebounds.

DePaul took down No. 15 Texas A&M 80-66, with Podkowa scoring 20 points and grabbing a career-high 18 rebounds, while January passed out a career-high 13 assists. January notched the first DePaul triple-double (13 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists) since Diana Vines accomplished the feat in 1989. The fourth signature win came against Louisville.

Most remarkable was that the Top 25 victories all came on the road.

"The legacy of this team is finishing with the most road wins in one season against Top 25 teams in program history," said Bruno. "That is what propelled us into the NCAA tournament, where we beat another Top 25 team (No. 8 Louisville) on their home court."

Chanise Jenkins (CMN '15) set a school record with 10 three-pointers (10 of 13) and scored a career-high 30 points in an 80-66 triumph over Georgetown—a BIG EAST game that also saw her hand out seven assists. Jenkins would go on to be named the BIG EAST Player of the Year and an Associated Press and Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) honorable mention All-American.

Bruno was the BIG EAST Coach of the Year and a finalist for the WBCA Coach of the Year. He recorded his 600th collegiate victory after his team topped Butler 61-54 in January.

Co-captains Jenkins and Podkowa leave behind a legacy as the most successful senior class in DePaul history. The pair led DePaul to three straight BIG EAST regular-season titles, two BIG EAST Tournament championships and four straight NCAA appearances—including two Sweet Sixteen berths.

"Chanise Jenkins and Megan Podkowa are special, special players," Bruno said. "They've really just done an awful lot for this program, both in the classroom and on the floor."

Podkowa, January Earn Academic All-American Honors

Megan Podkowa (CSH '16) and **Jessica January** were named Academic All-Americans by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Podkowa, a senior mathematical sciences major, earned a 3.84 grade-point average (GPA). The All-BIG EAST forward was also honored as the conference's Women's Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year. All-BIG EAST guard January posted a 3.95 GPA with a double major in public relations and advertising and communications and media as a junior. She was also honored as Scholar Athlete of the Year by the Athletics Directors Association (ADA). Podkowa was selected to the ADA Scholar-Athlete Team.

Women's basketball, men's cross country, men's golf, softball, women's tennis and volleyball each recorded perfect scores of 1,000 in the latest NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) report, while 11 of 13 programs at DePaul surpassed the NCAA overall APR of 979.



Jessica January



Photo courtesy of: Bob Janis

Event Center Rising

The Event Center construction is proceeding ahead of schedule. The overall footprint of the structure defines the bowl shape of the interior arena. The crane hoisting the structural steel frame is positioned just off-center of what will be the new Blue Demons basketball court. For up-to-date event center news, go to homecourtchicago.com.

Strong Career Finishes for Mitrea, Maize and Gorden

Rebeca Mitrea (BUS '15) set the school's all-time record for career singles wins in tennis with 118 and the career record for overall wins (singles and doubles) with 219. She competed in the NCAA tournament doubles competition with **Yuliya Shupenia** in May. Shupenia also competed in the singles competition. **Morgan Maize (LAS '16)** led the Blue Demon softball team to the BIG EAST regular-season title. She was named BIG EAST Conference Player of the Year. All-BIG EAST women's soccer standout **Sarah Gorden (CMN '15)** was chosen in the third round of the National Women's Soccer League by the Chicago Red Stars, becoming the first Blue Demon to be drafted into the pros. She is currently a defender for the Red Stars, who play their home games at Toyota Park in suburban Bridgeview.



Medallist Tayler Whittler (right)

Blue Demons Reign at BIG EAST Indoor and Outdoor Track Meets

DePaul track and field earned eight individual championships at the BIG EAST indoor conference meet last February. **Sebastian Feyersinger** won gold medals in the 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash and 4x400 relay. Other medalists included **Tayler Whittler (CSH '16)** (60-meter, 200-meter), **Trevor Kintyht** (weight throw), **Kyle Decker** (60-meter hurdles) and **Brian Mada** (triple jump). Fifteen men's and women's track athletes were named to the All-BIG EAST Team.

At the outdoor meet in May, DePaul won nine titles, led by Whittler (women's 100-meter, 200-meter) and outstanding field performer Kintyht (shot put, hammer throw). Other titlists included **Jarvis Hill** (400-meter), **Blake Thompson (LAS '16)** (discus), Mada (triple jump), Decker (110-meter hurdles) and **Sarah Moss** (discus). Eighteen Blue Demons were named to the All-BIG EAST Team for outdoor track. Whittler, Mada and **Jeffrey Sattler** competed in the NCAA West Preliminary Rounds.

Must Islam Change?

Nathan Lean lectures on Islamophobia and the prejudices of liberalism

Hardly a day goes by without news about the war on terror. Media report regularly on ISIS attacks, providing fuel for the Islamophobes among us. On Feb. 2, the Center for Religion, Culture and Community offered the DePaul community an opportunity to look more closely at this complex topic by sponsoring “Islam, Islamophobia, and the Soft Prejudice of Liberalism.”

Laith Saud, instructor of religious studies and Islamic world studies at DePaul, began the evening by asserting that by diverting a wealth of resources to the war on terror, which disproportionately targets Muslims and Islamic-majority countries, “Islamophobia affects each and every one of us.” He then introduced the main speaker, Nathan Lean, an author, scholar and the director of research at Georgetown University’s Bridge Initiative, a research project that connects the academic study of Islamophobia with discussions in the public at large.

Lean began by discussing the ideology of Western liberalism, emphasizing that he

meant the philosophy of liberalism, not the political “Liberal with a capital L.” Liberalism champions rational thought over religion and other belief systems, and liberal critics of Islam believe that the religion must reform its core doctrines and adopt values Muslims have not defined for themselves.

As an example, Lean said that many Muslim women consider wearing the *hijab* (veil) an empowering symbol of their identity, though liberal critics view it as an infringement on personal freedom. Lean and Saud agreed that Islam has been in a state of constant change through the ages because of the religion’s encouragement of scholarly dialogue and that attempts by outsiders to force change are both ill-considered and doomed to failure.

Lean emphasized that liberal criticisms of Islam that appeal to both political conservatives and liberals include the threat of political Islam and its seeming aversion to free speech.

The January 2015 murders of the political cartoonists responsible for anti-Mohammed images in the French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* were the subject of a heated discussion among the packed audience.

Lean said there is a long history of anti-Muslim characterizations dating from the Barbary Wars of the early 19th century. He said that many staunch advocates of free speech conflate the right to publish offensive material with the idea that offensive material *must* necessarily be published if free speech is valued at all. He added that although the cartoonists had the right to publish them, such images can cause needless injury, and he urged restraint.

Lean believes that liberalism should incorporate multicultural perspectives to develop a more inclusive view of what constitutes freedom and that societies that uphold the value of liberalism must allow space for even those ideas that are deemed illiberal.

Alumni U Offers a “Touch of Class”

On April 16, more than 200 graduates eagerly welcomed a return to the classroom during the third annual Alumni University. Participants enjoyed miniclasses such as Trends in Sports Business and Zombies: Modern Myths, Race and Capitalism.

Meghann Artes, associate professor in the College of Computing and Digital Media’s School of Cinematic Arts, explored the new world of animation in Hand-Crafted Animation in the Digital Age. She pointed out that

shows like “The Simpsons” and “South Park,” which appear to be examples of traditional animation of images painted on celluloid panels, do, in reality, make use of advanced software. The emerging technologies, often called computer-generated imagery (CGI), are opening up creative possibilities while simultaneously reshaping the production process for animators. Not only does using the latest software influence the way animators approach the task at hand, but it also helps them stay relevant in a fast-changing creative environment.

The next Alumni University will be held April 8, 2017.



Laith Saud and Nathan Lean answer audience questions.



DePaul alumni become students again at Alumni University miniclasses.